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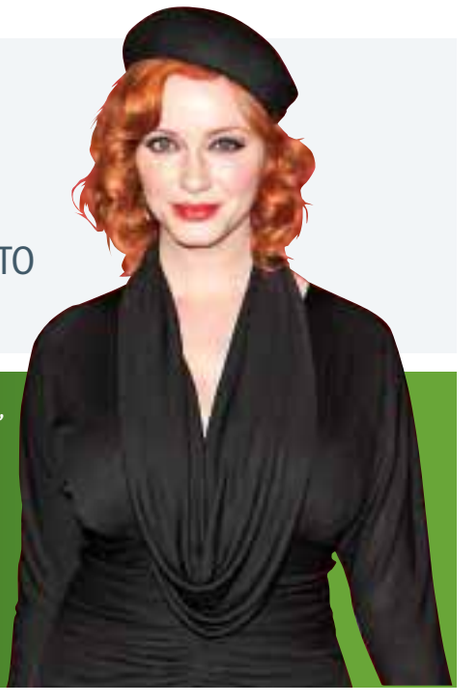
MANHATTAN RENDEZ-VOUS

PARTY LIKE THE MAD MEN WITH METRO'S GUIDE TO NEW YORK'S FABLED GIN JOINTS. TRAVEL PAGE 10



LONDON metro®

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

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'I'll never be able to forgive either one of them': Rodney Stafford

Rafferty trial. Terri-Lynne McClintic describes eight-year-old Tori Stafford's final moments

Pent-up rage from childhood trauma drove an 18-year-old woman to smash eight-year-old Victoria Stafford's head with a hammer, killing the girl she had kidnapped and her boyfriend had just sexually assaulted, a court in London heard Tuesday.

The drug-addicted couple slowly drove past a Woodstock, elementary school on April 8, 2009, when Michael Rafferty urged Terri-Lynne McClintic to kidnap a young girl for him, McClintic testified at Rafferty's first-degree murder trial.

She snatched Tori, the only unaccompanied child outside the school, and they drove her 100 kilometres north to a rural area where Rafferty violently sexually assaulted the girl in the back seat of his car, McClintic told a packed courtroom that included Tori's father, Rodney Stafford, and her mother, Tara McDonald.

A father's anguish

"I'll never be able to forgive either one of them.... I'll forgive that the Lord took Victoria at eight years of age, but I'll never forget. And I'm not going to let anyone forget Victoria."

Rodney Stafford, reacting to testimony by confessed murderer Terri-Lynne McClintic

"I told her that I was sorry," McClintic said. "She told me, 'Just don't let him do it again.'"

Tori said she needed to go to the bathroom, so McClintic — who said she had wandered away from the car so she wouldn't have to see what was going on — walked back to the car to help her. When that happened she could see blood in the snow, McClintic said.

She told Tori she was a "very strong girl," then handed her back to Rafferty, she said.

"He picked her back up," McClintic testified. "She still had ahold of my hand. She didn't want to let go. She asked me to stay with her. So I got in the front seat and I tried to hold onto her hand, but I couldn't stay because I knew what was about to happen. I couldn't be there for that."

McClintic walked away again and could hear Tori's screams, she said. They prompted her to have flashbacks — to what, she didn't say. "I went back to the vehicle and I savagely murdered that little girl," McClintic testified.

McClintic pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in April 2010 and is serving a life sentence. Rafferty has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rodney Stafford, father of slain eight-year-old Woodstock girl Victoria Stafford, is shown outside the courthouse in London on Tuesday during a break in proceedings at the trial for Michael Rafferty, the accused in his daughter's murder. GEOFF ROBINS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Temperature's rising

Not that we're complaining, but what is with this weather, anyway? A Western professor is hoping to piece together a history of climate change. PAGE 2

Crosby set to return — again

Penguins star Sidney Crosby is ready to hit the ice against the New York Rangers on Thursday. PAGE 14

1 NEWS

Mobile news

The boyfriend of a fatal car accident victim is using a series of heart-wrenching text messages to warn people not to text and drive. Scan the code for the story.

On the web

Breakin' it down to build 'em back up

What began as a break-dancing lesson has evolved into a "confidence-buildingclass" for students with disabilities. Watch at metronews.ca/video

Professor taking crack at climate change conundrum

University research. Western professor aims to trek through history to look 'back to the future'

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

Fanshawe College student Dylan Gredner, 23, of Wasaga Beach, brushes up on his rugby skills Tuesday in Victoria Park. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Award

$1.4M

Amount of money awarded through Canada Research Chairs program for climate research project at Western University.

Fred Szoldatits, from left, Michaela Van Belois and Chad Davidson, all of London, shed their winter jackets Tuesday for a lunch-hour stroll through Victoria Park. Londoners were treated to another early dose of spring Tuesday with a high of 16 C. Similar temperatures are in the forecast for the remainder of the week. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

What's up with this weather?

Western University professor Fred Longstaffe has, in a way, been curious about that for nearly two decades. Now, he's putting that curiosity to the test through a seven-year research project aimed at tracking climate change back to a time when mastodons roamed the Earth.

"You do wonder whether (unseasonable temperatures) is one of those regular weather anomalies, or whether we're starting to see a larger manifestation of climate change," said Longstaffe, who works in the university's Earth sciences and anthropology departments.

"It's hard to tell with these singular events. The research work we're trying to do is taking a longer view, what I call taking a look back to the future."

Longstaffe will be studying oxygen isotopes in water throughout history. Isotopes act as a sort of tape recorder for weather conditions present when they were formed, and water leaves a lasting mark when it comes in contact with living things, Longstaffe said.

That means researchers can figure out what the weather was like in certain time periods by examining the water "signatures" in fossils and plant remains. From that, Longstaffe hopes to piece together a history of climate change in the Great Lakes basin and, of course, predict the future.

"The history … gives you some kind of idea about the fluctuations of climate," he said. "We can then look to see if … the variations we're seeing are more rapid or severe than we've seen before."

The research also could lead to answers about what's responsible — climate change, humans, a combination both or other factors — for the extinction of some animals.

Cost of driving is going up for Ontarians

Millions of Ontario motorists will share the pain of eliminating the province's massive deficit by paying more in driving and licence fees.

The governing Liberals are hiking the costs of driving, increasing fees for new driver's licences and renewals to $80 from $75 starting next year.

Getting a vehicle licence validation sticker in southern Ontario, which currently costs $74, will go up to $82 next year and hit $98 in 2014.

Northern Ontario will see a more modest increase, with stickers going up by $4 to $41 this year and reaching $49 in 2014.

Driving exams — which currently range between $10 for a written test to $75 for a practical test — will cost between $5 to $10 more.

Replacing a licence will cost $15, an increase of $5.

Fees for truck and bus operators, trailers, farm, off-road and snow vehicles are also going up. A permit for a snowmobile — currently $30 — will go up by a $1 in 2013 and reach $33 by 2015. Same for off-road vehicles, which will rise to $36 in 2013 and reach $38 in 2015.

Transportation Minister Bob Chiarelli said the measures will bring in $340 million a year by 2014-15, which will help maintain Ontario's roads and bridges.

It also means the province, which is facing a $16-billion deficit this year, won't have to charge GO Transit users parking fees as recommended in economist Don Drummond's austerity report, he said.

"These (fee increases) are not specifically recommended in Drummond, but we're implementing them to help our fiscal challenge with $340 million, and that balances the fact that we're not taking his recommendation on GO," he said Tuesday.

Drummond had warned that if the government didn't implement all his recommendations, it would wind up doubling its deficit by 2017-18 instead of eliminating it altogether. If it can't follow through with one recommendation, he said, the government must make up the lost revenue somewhere else.

A government source said new fees will be the only fee hike in the upcoming budget that will affect families.

But critics argue motorists are already paying enough.

Ontario drivers pay an estimated $15 billion a year in taxes and fees, of which the provincial government receives $9.6 billion, said the Toronto Automobile Dealers Association.

Those costs include HST on car sales and new car services, gasoline taxes, the federal air conditioner tax and the Drive Clean program.

"The family car is a necessity for millions of Ontario families and is often the second most expensive purchase a family will make," Frank Notte, a spokesman for the organization, said in a statement.

"Governments must do all they can to keep the cost of owning and operating the family car affordable - that means no new taxes or fees associated with vehicle ownership."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fees

- Southern Ontario drivers currently pay $74 for a vehicle licence validation sticker, compared to $172 in New Brunswick, $142 in British Columbia and $104 in Quebec, Transportation Minister Bob Chiarelli said.
- Motorists in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and Northwest Territories currently pay a smaller fee.
- Even when the fee reaches $98 in 2015, it will still be on par with the national average or below, Chiarelli said.
- There are 11 million vehicles registered in Ontario.

Crimestoppers.com

Suspects sought in robbery attempt

London police are searching for suspects involved in two attempted robberies at two different Mac's Milk locations early Tuesday. In both cases there were three suspects involved, no weapons were used and no one was injured. METRO

Missing woman

Check for discarded clothing: Police

London police are calling the disappearance of Vanessa Fotheringham, last seen on Feb. 16, 'suspicious.' The RCMP helped the investigation with a helicopter aerial search Tuesday, concentrating on the east end and outskirts of London. Police are also asking residents of East London to check their properties for anything out of place, such as discarded clothing. METRO

Vanessa Fotheringham. AM980/AM980.CA

NBL Canada

Lightning open final this weekend

The London Lightning will host the first two games of the NBL of Canada this weekend, depending on the winner of the Halifax-Quebec semifinal. If Halifax wraps the series up Thursday, the final begins Saturday at the JLC. METRO

Unidentified person

First flu death of season in London

It took much longer than it did last year, but the Middlesex-London Health Unit is reporting its first influenza related death of the flu season. According to health officials, the individual died sometime last week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Donating time

Timeraiser call to artists opens

The call to artists for the third London Timeraiser closes Friday at 11 p.m. Local, emerging artists can sell their work to help inspire Londoners to donate their time in support of great causes. METRO

It's 'a matter of fairness' for fire union

Negotiations. Firefighters union hot under the collar about mayor's stance on pay

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

The head of London's firefighters association wants an explanation from Mayor Joe Fontana about recent comments regarding police-fire wage parity.

"(Fontana said) we're worth less than the police, and that's a major departure from what he's said in the past," fire union president Jim Holmes said this week. "What's changed? That's what we want to know."

The mayor pledged his support for equal pay and benefits as recently as December when he shared a holiday meal with members of the firefighters' union, Holmes said.

Fontana was out of the office in meetings Tuesday, and officials were reviewing a Metro request for comment on the issue. Holmes said he's contacted the mayor and has not received a response.

"It's rather offensive to us to hear that language from the mayor," Holmes said. "We've never heard any politician come out and speak against us like that."

The dispute comes as contract talks between firefighters and the city remain at a stalemate. Firefighters have been without a contract since Dec. 31, 2010, and the parties haven't met at the negotiating table since last summer.

The union has requested that any wage increases match those given to police officers — 11.2 per cent over a four-year deal ratified in February. Arbitration isn't likely to begin until next year, Holmes said.

Wage parity between firefighters and police officers has been an ongoing debate in the city for decades.

The departments have been on par since 1998, "and it took 50 years to get there," Holmes said. "We know (economic) times are tough out there, we see it every day," he said. "This is not about that, this is a matter of fairness."

Members

395:

Number of firefighters represented by London Firefighters Association

Newfoundland nurse's true 1920s story comes to grand Theatre

Actors, from left, Deidre Gillard-Rowlings, Robert Wyatt Thorne and Willow Kean perform a scene Tuesday from Tempting Providence at The Grand Theatre. The Theatre Newfoundland Labrador production will be on the Grand's main stage through March 31, telling the true story of Myra Bennett's experience as an out-port Newfoundland nurse in the 1920s. Ticket information is available at grandtheatre.com or 519-672-8800. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Crime bill. Changes to come with big costs: Local lawyer

The Conservative government's tough-on-crime legislation will hamstring judges, put more people behind bars and place additional strain on already overcrowded detention centres, one local lawyer said.

That boils down to more taxpayer money for criminal justice and less chance offenders will be rehabilitated, said James Zeger.

"The Conservatives have … created an erroneous perception in the public that there's a law-and-order problem," said the veteran criminal-trial lawyer. "There isn't really a need for the tough-on-crime thing. We already are tough on crime, and crime is decreasing."

Some parts of the legislation are good, Zeger said, noting that it's hard to argue with tougher penalties for things like child exploitation. But he says establishing minimum sentences for other crimes — like growing as few as six marijuana plants — are unnecessary.

Supporters of the new legislation, including victims' rights groups and some police organizations, say the bill helps correct a justice system that has swung too far toward the rights of criminals.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Federal crime bill

- Increases sentences for drug and sex offences
- Reduces use of conditional sentences like house arrest

Diet. An eat-less-salt campaign lacked that winning flavour: study

An ad blitz to get people to reduce the salt in their diets may not have been … uh, worth its salt.

A government study couldn't tell whether the Give Your Head A Shake campaign changed any eating habits in a test case that took place in eastern Ontario.

Local health centres in the Champlain region kicked off a campaign in August 2009 to try to persuade people in the area to consume less sodium.

The federal government spent $194,000 to evaluate the results of that campaign.

The study looked at two groups of adults between the ages of 35 and 50.

The Champlain group was exposed to the sodium campaign and a control group in a different town was not.

The Give Your Head a Shake campaign consisted of newspaper, television and radio ads.

Registered dieticians also came up with dozens of "quick and easy" tips to reduce sodium, such as mixing olive oil, lemon juice and herbs instead of using bottled marinades, or adding your own seasoning to chicken.

But when it came to actually reducing sodium, neither group changed their eating habits in a meaningful way.

"There were no significant differences documented for participants reporting they reduced the amount of sodium they ate in the past 30 days," the study says.

It should be "noted that the findings from this study are preliminary given the study's small geographic area and volunteer participants," spokesperson Sylwia Gomes said in an email.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Don't pass the salt

Ottawa's sodium-reduction strategy calls on manufacturers and restaurants to voluntarily cut sodium levels.

- **Too much.** The average Canadian consumes about 3,400 milligrams of sodium a day. Ottawa would like to see that lowered to 2,300 milligrams by 2016.

Ferry hits boat and sinks, at least 31 people killed

On the banks of the Meghna River, relatives wail for the loved ones they have lost. PAVEL RAHMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

River of death. Among those killed was a young woman found cradling the lifeless body of her baby

A ferry packed with about 200 people capsized in a river in southern Bangladesh on Tuesday, killing at least 31 people and leaving dozens missing.

Local police chief Mohammad Shahabuddin Khan said about 35 people were rescued after the ferry sank on the Meghna River after colliding with a cargo boat. Divers have recovered 31 bodies from inside the sunken ferry, he said.

He said the dead included a young woman found cradling her baby's lifeless body.

"The death toll is likely to rise as more bodies are feared trapped inside," Khan said.

One of the divers, Mohammad Alauddin, said there were still bodies inside the sunken ferry, some of them buried under cargo.

Hundreds of anxious people, many of them weeping, gathered near the scene of the accident to look for their loved ones.

The MV Shariatpur-1 was travelling to the capital, Dhaka, from neighbouring Shariatpur district to the southwest. The accident site is in Munshiganj district, 32 kilometres south of Dhaka.

Businessman Dulal Dewan, a survivor, described a scene of chaos as the ferry collided with the other ship.

"In minutes there were screams all around," he said. "People were shouting for help."

Dewan said he was rescued by a nearby boat, but eight other family members travelling with him were still unaccounted for.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survivor

"I was awakened with a big jolt. I jumped into the river in darkness."

Dulal Dewan, a businessman who survived

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Prostitution case. Court chaos as woman pleads not guilty

Dozens of reporters and photographers crowded a New York courtroom for Jaynie Mae Baker's arraignment and trailed her as she left court on $100,000 bond.

The 30-year-old Baker held her head high as she pleaded not guilty to the sole charge against her and reputed Scottish-born madam Anna Gristina: a low-level felony count of promoting prostitution.

Prosecutors say the investigation is continuing, and they have suggested there could be more to the case.

They have said Gristina, a 44-year-old suburban mother who is accused of providing prostitutes to power brokers, was heard during a five-year investigation claiming she had contacts in law enforcement.

Gristina also has pleaded not guilty; her lawyers say she was simply starting a high-end, legal dating service.

Prosecutors have said Gristina, who remains a British citizen, had said she would flee if she got in trouble and may have money stashed away to do so.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The lawyer

"There is nothing sordid, nothing illegal" in Baker's work.

Robert Gottlieb, defence lawyer

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Tall story?

Tallest man is short on growth

The world's tallest man — 8-foot-3 Sultan Kosen, 29, of Turkey — may have stopped growing, thanks to new medication from the University of Virginia Medical Center.

Kosen visited the university in May 2010 for treatment for a disorder called acromegaly, which is usually caused by a tumour in the pituitary gland. But now doctors in Turkey say Kosen has stopped growing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rae comes clean on Liberal robocalls

Liberal interim leader Bob Rae is urging the Tories to come clean on any robocalls tactics used in the last election.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robocalls. Interim Liberal leader Bob Rae reveals party's phone scripts and makes public call for Harper's Tories to do the same

The Liberal party has given Elections Canada samples of its robocall messages and scripts for live calls to voters during last spring's election campaign.

Interim leader Bob Rae says in a letter to the agency that the party has recordings of all its campaign robocalls and will make them available if needed for the investigation into alleged vote-suppression tactics.

And he's calling on the Conservatives to be equally transparent.

Elections Canada is investigating thousands of complaints about fraudulent robocalls in which someone purporting to be calling on behalf of the agency misdirected voters to non-existent polling locations.

The watchdog is also looking into harassing live calls which were purportedly made on behalf of an opposition party but which appeared aimed at alienating that party's supporters.

Opposition parties accuse the Conservatives of masterminding a widespread, vote-suppression scheme since discovering that fraudulent robocalls in the hotly contested riding of Guelph had been traced to a company used by Tory candidates.

Robocall

"The complaints being made by Canadians are disturbing and unprecedented and must be resolved."

Interim Liberal leader Bob Rae, in a letter to election commissioner William Corbett

However, the Tories have fought back by accusing the Liberals of their own misdeeds, including a robocall in Guelph that attacked the Tory candidate's position on abortion without saying that the call was being made on behalf of Liberal incumbent Frank Valeriote.

Valeriote has said he's already come clean about that robocall with Elections Canada investigators.

In a letter to election commissioner William Corbett, Rae says election financial returns already filed by the party and its local candidates include all relevant financial information about live and automated phone services used during the campaign. He offers to supply more records if necessary.

In a veiled reference to the Tories, Rae adds: "We feel it would be irresponsible and tantamount to obstruction for any political party to be anything less than fully transparent and co-operative with your investigation." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Ex-Murdoch exec arrested in phone hacking scandal

U.K. media. Police appear to have abandoned lenient tactics in light of the scope of wrongdoing

Former News International executive Rebekah Brooks and her racehorse trainer husband Charlie were arrested Tuesday in dawn raids that also netted four other suspects in the spreading phone hacking scandal.

Police said the six people were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. The charge is an indication that investigators may be focusing on a possible coverup of the scope of phone hacking rather than the illegal hacking itself.

Former News International executive Rebekah Brooks.
SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

It was the most arrests in a single day since "Operation Weeting" — as the police investigation into phone hacking is known — began arresting reporters, senior news executives, police officers and others suspected of criminal acts.

The early morning police swoop brought the scandal to Prime Minister David Cameron's immediate social circle. Cameron said at a press conference earlier this month that Rebekah Brooks' husband, Charlie Brooks, was a longtime friend.

Rebekah Brooks, a one-time protege of Murdoch and also a former News of the World editor, had been arrested and set free on bail previously on charges related to the phone hacking and the corruption of officials.

Police said the suspects ranged in age from 38 to 49 and that all but one were released on bail Tuesday evening after questioning. The Brookses are believed to be among those released on bail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tobacco trial

Former tobacco spokesman testifies

Michel Descoteaux, who headed Imperial Tobacco's public-relations department for more than two decades, said Tuesday that his company was already under fire in the 1960s over the potential health risks of smoking. Descoteaux was testifying at the start of a landmark class-action suit, the biggest civil trial in Canadian history.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mineral manoeuvre

WTO hears rare earth complaint

The U.S., the EU and Japan filed complaints Tuesday with the World Trade Organization charging that China is limiting the export of rare earths, minerals that are vital to the production of high-tech goods. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Airline arbitration

Union decries federal meddling

The union representing mechanics, baggage handlers and other ground crew at Air Canada said Tuesday the federal government's decision to impose arbitration on its talks with the airline is eroding labour rights. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mirror, mirror on the wall

A new 'magic mirror,' developed by Apache Solutions, allows shoppers to virtually try on clothes without the stress of long lineups or wasted hours at the mall. The mirror itself is a large 88-inch plasma screen that displays 3D catalogue images. METRO WORLD NEWS

Market Moment

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(+0.35¢)

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11:16 AM: YOU'VE PROBABLY ALREADY CHECKED OUT OF THE OFFICE

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

Hello, fellow cat jugglers.

Of course, it just feels as if we're juggling cats. In reality, we're juggling meetings, unreasonable demands, inboxes, texts, tweets and PowerPoints. Did I mention unreasonable demands?

And if you drop one, it feels just like an unhappy tomcat landing on your face.

Here's some good news: You've already survived the peak cat-juggling moment of the week, which, according to a 2011 British survey of 3,000 employees between 18 and 45 by Michael Page International, is Tuesday morning at 10 a.m.

It's all downhill from that point. From there, it's just kitten bouncing.

You might be surprised that it's not Monday, the traditional black cat that curls up in the cubicles of wage slaves. The survey reveals that people aren't really back to work Monday; they're easing themselves back into the saddle, catching up with colleagues about the weekend and ignoring emails and in-baskets.

The trouble is, none of that stuff goes away, and by Tuesday at 10 a.m. the cats start howling.

A good time to go for coffee. Or walk the dog.

Personally, I think Sunday, bloody Sunday, is the most stressful time of the week, particularly Sunday afternoon, which is when you start thinking about what it's going to be like on Tuesday morning. There you are, sharing a gelato with your honey on a fine Sunday afternoon, and it occurs to you that you better get that presentation done by Tuesday at 10 a.m., or the boss will feed you to the tigers.

For a lot of people, every day is a bad day. Three-quarters of the survey respondents are done by 11:16. Every day.

Considering there are still five hours and 45 minutes remaining in the average work day, we have a problem. If the survey is in any way a reflection of reality, three-quarters of us should just put on our coats and go home before noon, and leave the afternoon to those people who are actually working. They may not even notice as you go by, because those tabbies are tough to twirl by their tails and require a lot of attention and dexterity.

(And treats. Don't forget that, if all else fails, cats are easy to bribe with tuna snacks.)

Punch in, check out?

If you believe the survey, one in five should not even bother to turn up in the morning, because they're done by 9 a.m.

If you believe the survey, one in five should not even bother to turn up in the morning, because they're done by 9 a.m. Never mind hump day or TGIF, these people need extended beach therapy, which consists mainly of unregulated access to drinks with little umbrellas.

Plus, when was the last time you saw a cat on the beach?

Are you an office juggler or a cat-napper? GANDINI JUGGLERS/CONTRIBUTED

A lesson from the sky

GETTY IMAGES

25 Palestinians dead

Four-day rocket fire ends in truce

ASHDOD, ISRAEL. Some Israeli school girls take cover next to a bus during a rocket attack from the Gaza Strip, 38 kilometres south of Ashdod.

An Egyptian-brokered truce on Tuesday quelled cross-border fire between Israel and Palestinian militants, which left 25 dead in Gaza and three wounded in Israel.

MWN

Violence ebbs

"Until last night, our house was shaking. The bombing has been terrible because it came out of nowhere. A total surprise, that's the worst part."

Yasmeen El Khoudary, 21, Gaza City-based blogger and activist

Arrow II interceptor

Israel repels 3 out of 4 rockets

DEFENCE. "This was a mini drill," for Iran, claimed one official after Israel managed to absorb some 75 per cent of Palestinian rocket fire over a four-day period, using its Iron Dome missile interceptor system.

The other Arrow II interceptor, so far proven only in trials, has a shoot-down rate of some 90 percent.

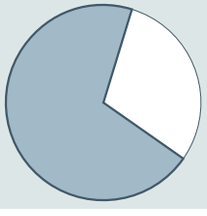
MWN

On the lookout in Ashdod. GETTY IMAGES

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

When it comes to books, are you Team Paper or Team e-Reader?



70% PAPER. WORDS SHOULD BE TANGIBLE

30% E-READER. SAVE THE TREES

Twitter

@AMeddaoui: Now that winter is pretty much over , London moves on to it's next season and it's longest . Construction season #LdnOnt

@BexKst88: I can tell its match break. It's Tuesday but I thought it was Wednesday and I'm still laying in bed. What to do today in #ldnont

@LdnOnt_Blair: If you know someone who only works part time but insists they're always busy, they're lying. #LdnOnt

@shiguy79: Think everyone in the plant came outside for lunch. #beautiful #ldnont

@mattasross: LOL! Was just contacted by a reporter to do a story on the LYAC....who turns out to live in London UK #ldnont

metro

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2 SCENE

Rooted and Undun

Q & A. Roots drummer Questlove on latest albums, Philly, Jay-Z, Jimmy Fallon and Amy Winehouse

The Roots aren't known for selling records. While the hip-hop band has released 14 albums — mostly to critical acclaim — only two have managed to crack gold status.

But even though bandleader Questlove might have enjoyed the money that comes along with multiplatinum records, he wouldn't trade the group's rarified position in the music world for it.

"Mostly for black artists, we're really not afforded — unless you're a jazz artist — you're really not afforded the luxury of making an art record, or a concept record, or a passion project," said Questlove, born Ahmir Thompson. "For some strange, odd reason, and I'm not ever going to argue it, The Roots have always (had that luxury)."

And The Roots, the house band for Late Night With Jimmy Fallon since 2009, have had support from high places to maintain that luxury. When Jay-Z was president of Def Jam, he signed The Roots to the label and told them to maintain their sound and integrity, even if it meant fewer sales.

"(Jay-Z) didn't want to be known as the bad guy that killed The Roots," Questlove said. The Roots put out two CDs last year with the Betty Wright-assisted Betty Wright: The Movie and Undun, which debuted at No. 17 on the Billboard charts. Both landed on several critics' best-of-the-year lists.

On Amy Winehouse

"I really miss not having her here to school me on jazz... There's so much more I could have learned. She's a teacher."

Questlove

Jay-Z gave you guys some good advice.

I told Jay, "Like man, that would be nice to have all my records debut at No. 1 and stuff." But he's like, "Yeah, but you're just looking at that. I got to deal with beef with this cat and that cat. Every year some rapper's going to take a potshot and I got to take the gloves out the closet and start training." ... And (Jay-Z) sees me as an artist making my dream come true. Like, he wants to be seen as a true artist, not the richest guy in hip-hop. Meanwhile, I would like 13 zeros in my account.

Undun is about the death of fictional drug dealer Redford Stevens, but the story is told from beginning to end. How did the concept come about?

We wanted to tell his story because we've known a billion Redford Stevens in Philadelphia. Philadelphia has been sort of mired and drenched into a lot of random acts of crime, very un-brotherly like in the last decade or so, and we wanted to show the direct result.

Questlove from The Roots poses for a portrait in New York. CARLO ALLEGRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

What was your relationship like with Amy Winehouse?

She's such a jazz snob. I couldn't stand it, but I was obsessed with it because once we exchanged information, she would always be on her computer sending me MP3s (like), "Listen to this." ... We spent a lot of time on Skype talking about crazy ideas and she schooled me about Sarah Vaughan. I schooled her about J Dilla. And she was like, "All right, we're going to start a super group. You, me, Mos (Def) and Raphael Saadiq." I was like, "OK." And she assigned homework: "All right, study this record." ... I really miss not having her here to school me on jazz; I thought I was a music snob, and I thought I had my doctorate in jazz, but no. There's so much more I could have learned. She's a teacher.

How has the band grown from being on the Jimmy Fallon show?

Being on the Jimmy Fallon show has introduced a word that has never been in our vocabulary. We've never, ever rehearsed as a band. We never practiced. Shockers, I know. ...So once we come to Fallon, we're now confined to a very tight space, and it's just the eight of us looking at each other, and it's very awkward. ... It's like we didn't know how to play. ... Once we got in a groove, we just practiced a lot. And now we're better musicians, we're better songwriters, we're better engineers, we're better producers. We're just more focused on our songwriting than ever. I wish we had this type of discipline and preparation at the beginning of our career. So I feel like now we're just on our second album.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Changes in the Den

No more Mr. Nice dragon

Another dragon is leaving the Dragons' Den. BC-TV says tech mogul Robert Herjavec will not return to the business-minded series next season. Herjavec is one of the show's original five judges and was considered one of the nice assessors of wannabe titans. THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Rapper Jay-Z rolls into Texas in the nick of time, brings the hype to South By Southwest

Adam Scott all smiles these days

Friends with Kids. Actor says that the camaraderie in the world of comedy offers him 'a nice way to work'

Adam Scott stars in Friends with Kids. GETTY IMAGES

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News in New York

It was a role in the comedy Step Brothers that gave dramatic actor Adam Scott his big break.

"It was a fluke, honestly," says the actor on landing his role as Will Ferrell's conceited biological brother in the 2008 comedy. "It was so fun and exciting; no day was ever the same," he remembers. "That and [Starz comedy series] Party Down took me in a new direction. I never looked back."

Discovering his comedic acting chops was a happy accident for Scott, because once he discovered he could do comedy — and do it quite well — the chummy, creative L.A. comedy scene invited him into their fold.

"Before, I was chasing some brass ring that never really existed and trying to get guest spots and dramatic roles. It wasn't until I found the comedy scene that I started creating my own destiny," he says. (Scott currently stars in NBC's hit comedy Parks and Recreation).

"We take things from the ground up, and everyone is very inspired by each other. We like to help each other out with projects. It's a nice way to work."

A nice way — and also a fruitful one, as it was his friends who helped him land his first big starring film role in the new indie dramedy Friends with Kids. "Jen and Jon have been friends of mine for a long time, and they asked me to do it," says Scott (that would be the film's writer, director and lead actress, Jennifer Westfeldt and her boyfriend, Jon Hamm, who acts in the film as well as serves as an executive producer).

In the film, Scott stars as Jason, who, along with his best friend Julie (Westfeldt), sees how children wreck their friends' romantic relationships.

They decide to have a child together while keeping their relationship platonic.

Kids of his own

For Scott, who is also a father to two young children, Friends with Kids really rings true.

- "The film astutely observes things about the way you feel when you have a kid that I'd never seen in a movie before. I couldn't believe that she was able to harness [those feelings] not having kids of her own," he says of the film's writer, director and lead actress Jennifer Westfeldt.

Spears looking at big payday for taking X Factor judge spot

Maybe Britney Spears won't be taking a spot at the X Factor judges' table after all, as the singer has reportedly balked at a $10 million offer from Simon Cowell's singing competition after asking for $20 million, according to Hollywood Life.

But negotiations aren't dead, as Spears reportedly would still be interested if the show could offer an "exit clause," allowing her to bow out after one season if she wanted.

"Money is not an issue for the show. As of now, they are looking to pay her $12 to $15 million for the first season, with a drastic price hike for a second year based on ratings performance," a source says.

"Simon Cowell wants at least a two-year commitment, and Britney wants an out clause if she doesn't want to continue after one year of service."

Bieber adding to his collection of religious tattoos

Justin Bieber GETTY IMAGES

Justin Bieber has added another piece to his collection of religious body art, tattooing a pair of praying hands on his calf, according to Hollyscoop.

Bieber already has some religious tattoos.

He has Jesus' name in Hebrew running down his ribcage as well as a portrait of Jesus on the back of his leg.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

TV show

Man vs. Wild gets killed off by Discovery

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Bear Grylls has no qualms about drinking his own urine on national television — and this is the thanks he gets?

In shocking news, it was announced yesterday that the Discovery Channel fired the popular hunky outdoorsman from his show Man Vs. Wild, after the network was unable to get Grylls to participate in two unannounced projects he was contracted for, sources tell The Hollywood Reporter.

The British Grylls has been with the Discovery Channel since 2006 and in that time has become an international sensation, channeling the show's popularity into endorsement deals with Dockers and Degree deodorant, as well as numerous book deals, an iPhone app, his own clothing line and a video game.

It's all very strange — of course he should honor his contract but it's hard to believe that the Discovery Channel would just so abruptly fire one of their most successful personalities.

Considering this guy has bitten off the head of a snake to eat for breakfast, you kind of have to wonder what was in that contract that he wouldn't do?

Piers Morgan not fond of Kate Moss and Madonna

Piers Morgan GETTY IMAGES

Piers Morgan doesn't mince words when it comes to some of the women he doesn't care for, including Kate Moss and Madonna.

"If people actually knew what she was like, they would never, ever be interested in her again," he tells the Mirror of Moss, whom he says literally kicks him whenever they see each other at public functions.

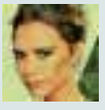
"She's just a vile little creature."

As for Madonna, whom Morgan had banned from his CNN talk show, he says she is fake.

"She's a complete con artist and those arms are just terrifying," he says.

"It's like watching Conan the Barbarian. She's looking even more barbaric than ever at the moment, utterly grotesque."

Twitter



@victoriabeckham
my friend Gwyneth looks so good in the slouch coat from my summer collection!!

@GwynethPaltrow
Dude. Seriously. I love my life.

@RobLowe
Spring break with the family. Skiing and Advil.

@AlbertBrooks
China builds 30 story hotel in 15 days and my exit on the 405 has been closed for 3 months.

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3 LIFE

Travel in brief

Corset factory a historic site

A Quebec City building where corsets were manufactured for almost a century has been added to Canada's official roster of national historic sites. Known as La Fabrique, the four-storey red-brick building in the downtown Saint Roch district was the site of Dominion Corset from 1897 to 1988. The company was among the city's main employers and one of Canada's largest manufacturers of corsets and undergarments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the Web

Want a good deal on summer travel? As fuel and airfares rise, now is time to jump

From top, clockwise: P.J. Clarke's is name-dropped in Mad Men; P.J. Clarke's bartender Doug Quinn serves up cocktails; P.J. Clarke's is a bustling night spot. TINA FINEBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mad for Manhattan

New York. With the anticipation for the return of Mad Men, check out some of Don Draper's favourite haunts

Mad Men fans, it's time for a cocktail.

The return of the AMC show March 25 after a hiatus of a year and a half is cause for celebration, and there's no better place to raise your glass than in Manhattan at one of Don Draper's favourite haunts.

While many of the places name-dropped in Mad Men no longer exist — Lutece, the Stork Club, Toots Shor's — there are plenty that do, among them P.J. Clarke's, the Roosevelt Hotel and Sardi's. Some Manhattan bars, clubs and hotels are even offering packages, drinks or viewing parties to mark the show's return.

Of course, the series is filmed in California, so what you see on TV are well-researched sets, not real Manhattan bars.

But Mad Men fans will not be disappointed by reality: many of the establishments that turn up on the show retain a classy, retro vibe in real life, and can offer a fun, sophisticated setting for drinks or a meal.

Judy Gelman and Peter Zheutlin, authors of The Unofficial Mad Men Cookbook, provide A Handy List of Mad Men Haunts in their book along with recipes from them.

"Some of these places just never go out of style, like the Grand Central Oyster Bar," said Zheutlin. "It's such a classic and bustling place."

Mad Men aficionados know the Oyster Bar at the landmark train terminal was not mentioned by name on the show, but it's believed to be the place where Don takes Roger Sterling for a martini-and-oyster lunch.

P.J. Clarke's, at Third Avenue and 55th Street, manages to appeal to a trendy 21st-century sensibility while channelling the classic cool that got the crowd from Mad Men ad agency Sterling Cooper drinking and doing the twist. P.J. Clarke's "was the site of many Mad Men parties," Gelman said.

"I think there might be more scenes set there" than any other bar or restaurant.

According to its real-life bartender, Doug Quinn, P.J. Clarke's "was a joint often frequented by Madison Avenue advertising executives during the 1960s.

"Our bar and restaurant continues to be a destination for this crowd."

Quinn says he'd recommend a sidecar cocktail to any Mad Men fans dropping by — "one part sweet, one part sour and one part strong." For food, try a medium-rare bacon cheeseburger, once named "the Cadillac of burgers" by singer Nat King Cole.

"It continues to be one of our most ordered menu items," Quinn said.

The Roosevelt Hotel, 45 E. 45th St. at Madison Avenue, where Don stayed after his wife Betty threw him out, is offering a Mad Men in the City package, starting at $425 a night through June 30, so guests can "experience New York City as Don Draper would," according to Kevin Croke, the hotel's director of sales and marketing.

The package includes accommodations, '60s-era themed cocktails at the hotel's lobby-level Madison Club Lounge or its rooftop bar, called mad46. Guests also get a DVD of the show's fourth season, a copy of The Unofficial Mad Men Cookbook," and tickets to the Paley Center for Media at 25 W. 52nd St., where the hotel has reserved a screening booth for viewing ads from the era.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Party like Mad Men

To celebrate the return of Mad Men after a long 18 months, some Manhattan haunts are hosting parties for fans of the TV series.

- **Event.** The Pierre, a Taj Hotel, at 2 E. 61st St., which in Mad Men housed offices for the Sterling Cooper Draper Pryce firm, will host a party March 27 at its Two E Bar/Lounge in honour of the new season. Fans are invited to dress up in their favourite Mad Men outfits and try cocktails like a creme de menthe grasshopper or a "bikini martini," a gin, schnapps and blue curacao drink created in honour of the character Joan Holloway. The $14 cocktails will be offered Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., along with a no-cover jazz duo.

Serving tea for the England of 2012

London. Afternoon tea has been a British tradition since 1865, and it's making a comeback — enjoy the extravagance

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News in London

Last week, The Queen took Kate Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge, and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, for high tea on their visit to London department store Fortnum and Mason, a tradition that dates back to 1865 when the Duchess of Bedford called for a selection of snacks halfway between lunch and supper.

But this eccentric and quintessentially British experience is not just enjoying a revival with Duchesses. Afternoon tea so neatly services Britain's new home-baking obsession, the vogue for exotic teas and the compulsion to find ever-more-exciting ways of celebrating baby showers and hen parties that tearooms through London are bursting at the seams. And there's plenty of hot competition for those famous hotels churning out costly teas in two-hour slots from morning until night.

At five-star deluxe Dukes, an award-winning boutique hotel gem tucked down a backstreet of the upmarket St James area, demand from their clients is such that head chef Nigel Mendham has created The Ultimate Afternoon Tea. Served up in a nook of the intimate salon of this country house in the city, or privately in the sumptuous green and pink Perrier-Jouet lounge, this mini banquet marries heirloom tomatoes to Iberico bellota, Royal Beluski Caviar to smoked salmon sandwiches, alba white truffle to Dry aged beef, gold leaf to macaroons and Tahitian vanilla to scones, and then to a flute of Perrier-Jouët Belle Epoque champagne for the princely sum of $300 per head (dukeshotel.com).

At haven The Halkin a new chocolate-themed tea has been introduced, to celebrate the hotel's 20th anniversary. Conceived by award-winning chocolatier, William Curley, the 'Couture Chocolate Tea' adds Chocolate Financier with Passion fruit Curd, Orange and Chocolate Sacher, Sea Salt Caramel and Raspberry Tart to its selection of sweets (halkin.como.bz).

Top or bottom?

- Clotted cream or jam first on your half scone? There are two schools of thought on this from the counties most famous for producing the thick cream. There's no right or wrong, just the Devon method, where the cream is spread first so it can soak into the scone, then followed by jam, and the Cornwall, where jam is spread before cream.

The Perrier-Jouet lounge at Dukes. HANDOUT

Classic afternoon teas

For fashionistas:

The Caramel Room
The Berkeley Hotel

This stylish and fun afternoon tea is inspired by the hottest catwalk trends — diners can expect biscuits, cakes and other sweet treats based on the current fashion season's looks.
the-berkeley.co.uk

For people watching:

The Wolseley

Set in a former showroom for Wolseley cars, this grand café offers a refined afternoon tea. This is a place to see and be seen — it hums from breakfast service until closing time.
thewolseley.com

For a classic experience:

Browns Hotel

Settling down for the afternoon within the smart, wood-panelled cocoon of the English tearoom in this London institution is a treat. Tea sommeliers are on hand.
brownshotel.com

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Smoked salmon proves that fine dining doesn't have to be difficult

Risotto. This tasty Champagne Shiitake-Salmon dish is elegant enough to impress even the most picky of your dinner guests

Ingredients

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) butter
- 1 large onion, diced
- 140 g (5 oz) shiitake mushroom caps, thinly sliced
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) arborio rice
- 550 ml (2 1/4 cups) dry sparkling wine
- 750 ml (3 cups) chicken stock or broth, warmed to a simmer
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground black pepper
- 250 ml (1 cup) freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 125 g (4 oz) smoked salmon, cut into thin strips

At your next dinner party, take the fine dining route by easily whipping up a dinner that leaves your guests feeling like you've gone all out to prepare the perfect meal.

The trick? Making sure a bit of bubbly is involved at every step of the process — beginning to end.

This simple but richly decadent risotto studded with thinly sliced shiitake mushrooms and strips of smoked salmon will do it. A generous amount of sparkling wine added throughout the cooking process ensures the experience is sophisticated.

Don't like bubbles? You can always substitute a dry Riesling. Don't care for smoked salmon? Substitute small shrimp (and cook for an extra 3 to 5 minutes, or until just pink and firm).

Be sure to enjoy the remaining sparkling wine when you serve up this risotto.

1 In a skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter. Add onion and shiitakes; sauté for 4 minutes. Add rice and cook, stirring constantly, for 1 minute. Add 250 ml (1 cup) of the wine and cook, stirring constantly, until completely absorbed.

2 Add half of the chicken stock or broth, stir several times, then let simmer until liquid is nearly completely absorbed. Continue adding stock, 125 ml (1/2 cup) at a time and stirring constantly until absorbed between each addition.

3 When all of the stock has been added and absorbed, add another 250 ml (1 cup) of the sparkling wine. Stir until absorbed. The rice should be tender, but still just barely firm at the centre. Stir in cinnamon, salt and pepper. Add cheese and mix until melted and creamy. Adjust seasonings.

4 Remove the pan from heat. Stir in salmon and remaining sparkling wine to serve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR, AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Champagne Shiitake-Salmon Risotto

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Passion-Politan

Bring the passion back to your relationship with the Passion-Politan. This romantic cocktail is just as visually pleasing as it is delicious.

1 Combine ingredients except champagne or sparkling wine in a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake and add sparkling wine, stir and strain into a martini glass. Float the rose petals on top of the cocktail.

- 1 oz SKYY Vodka
- 1.5 oz Passionfruit Liqueur
- 0.75 oz rose syrup (such as Monin)
- 0.5 oz lime juice
- Rosé champagne or rosé sparkling wine
- 1 rose petal

RECIPE AND PHOTO: SKYY SPIRITS

Star treatment with Smoked Salmon Stars

This fun appetizer is dazzling with its creamy cheese and a zip of lemon. It's a perfect match for great tasting smoked salmon.

Have one of your guests bring a bottle of Domaine Carneros rose sparkling wine to serve with these fancy appetizers. They work so well together.

To make the zest, use a sharp citrus stripper to peel long strips from a lemon. Make sure you get only the yellow peel, as the white pith underneath is bitter. If you do this in advance, cover the zest with a damp paper towel and plastic wrap so the lemon curls do not dry out before you use them.

1 Toast bread, then let it cool to room temperature by placing on a rack or leaving in the toaster. If you put the hot toast on a plate, it will steam underneath and become soggy.

2 Using a channel knife or vegetable peeler remove rind from lemon. Thinly slice if using vegetable peeler and set aside.

3 Spread 10 to 15 ml (2 to 3 tsp) of cheese over each piece of toast. Top with salmon, trimming to fit, if necessary. Use a star cookie cutter to cut each slice into as many stars as possible. Garnish with lemon strips. Place caviar, if using, in centre of star.

4 Arrange on a platter and serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ELIZABETH KARMEL, A GRILLING AND SOUTHERN FOODS EXPERT AND EXECUTIVE CHEF AT HILL COUNTRY BARBECUE MARKET RESTAURANTS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, AND HILL COUNTRY CHICKEN IN NEW YORK. SHE IS THE AUTHOR OF SOAKED, SLATHERED AND SEASONED/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR, AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 6 slices of pumpernickel bread or thick sliced bread
- 1 pkg (146 g/5.2 oz) garlic and herb cheese (such as Boursin) at room temperature
- 125 g (4 oz) thinly sliced smoked salmon
- 1 lemon
- Black caviar (optional)

NEED A RIDE?
Read metro drive every Wednesday.

Do you have the 'it' factor for a job in IT?

Computer can-do. You've secured a degree in information technology. It's time to take on the workforce

DAVE KEIR
talentegg.ca

Take down these tips from career expert Dave Keir of IT staffing agency Robert Half Technology on how to get a solid foot in the door of all things desktop.

What's your type?

According to a Robert Half Technology survey of more than 1,800 CIOs in Canada and the U.S., the top 5 most in-demand technical skills are:

1) Network administration
2) Database management
3) Desktop support
4) Windows administration
5) Wireless network management

You already know that technology changes rapidly. Show employers you can keep up with the rapid pace. ISTOCK

Stay positive:

Plain and simple, it is always tough to go through the application and hiring process, so new job seekers should remain positive and optimistic, especially during job interviews. Employers are attracted to positive thinkers.

Be assertive in your job search:

Never stop networking! Utilize online resources like Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, and find ways to network in person as well. People forget to do this all the time and rely solely on the Internet, but personally reaching out to employers has a timeless effect.

Stay up to date on the latest technology:

Consider continuing education courses, online learning, etc. There are also so many free, online tools to keep your skills current. Doing this shows an employer that you are not only resourceful, but that you are eager and ready to work.

Polish your soft skills:

Employers want someone with great communication skills who is able to work well with anyone.

Always check your ego at the door, and be willing and able to collaborate with others on the team. Job seekers often get so caught up on solely advertising their technological knowledge that they forget to enhance what they themselves can bring to the position as well!

Twitter

@TalentEgg: What advice would you give a tech grad just starting their career?

@ITtechExec
Advice to #tech grad starting #career? Plan/Work Strategy, Invest Personnally to Stay Current on Tech/Biz, Expect to Switch Jobs

@EvanBirtch
Keep an open mind relating 2 the role, & try to focus on your area of strength.Lots of time 2 get experience & move up the ladder

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4 SPORTS

In brief

Dolphins trade Marshall to Bears

The Chicago Bears have acquired Pro Bowl receiver Brandon Marshall in a trade with the Miami Dolphins. There was speculation the Bears would go after a high-profile free-agent receiver such as Vincent Jackson, but they filled their biggest hole with a blockbuster deal instead, sending two undisclosed draft picks to Miami. Marshall made the Pro Bowl for the third time last year, when he had 81 catches for 1,214 yards and six scores. But he also dropped at least four potential touchdown catches and failed to end his career-long playoff drought. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Final piece of a juggernaut?

NHL. Already winners of nine straight, Penguins prepare to reinsert 'the best hockey player in the world' into lineup

Sidney Crosby is returning to new linemates and a new role with the NHL's hottest team.

But Pittsburgh Penguins coach Dan Bylsma still expects to see the Crosby of old despite his current 40-game layoff and the 102 games the star forward has missed over two seasons because of concussion-related issues.

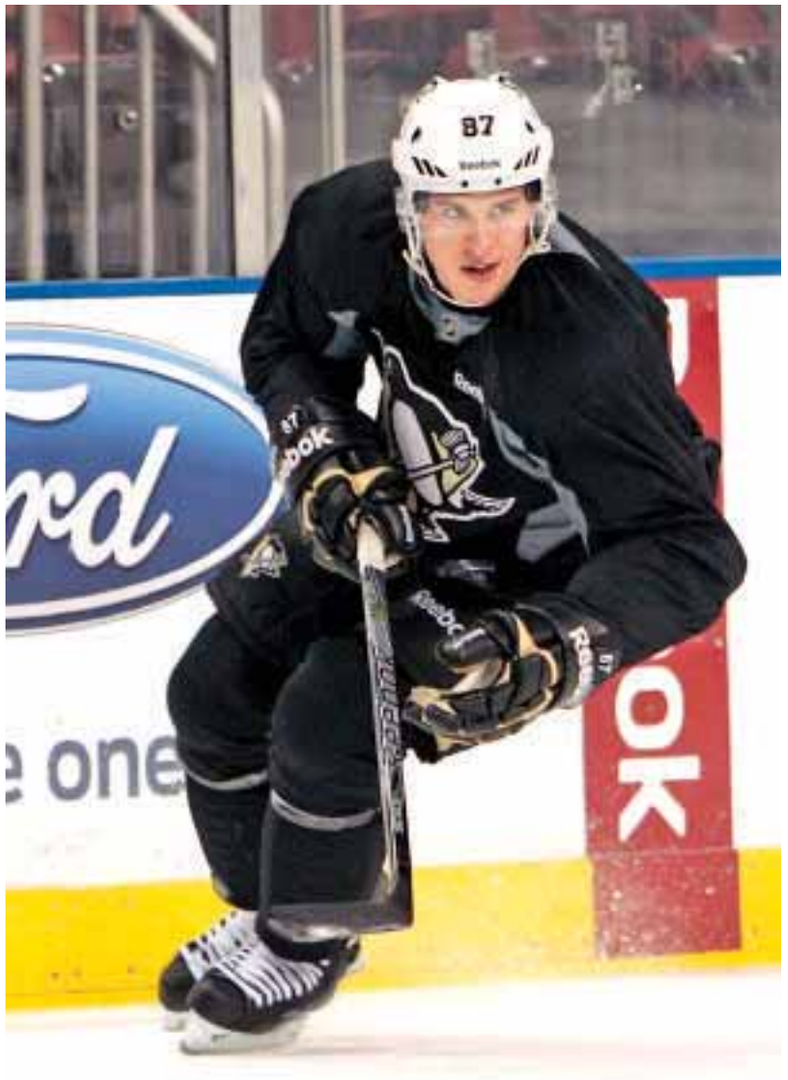
Crosby, out since Dec. 5, announced Tuesday he will play Thursday night against the Rangers in New York. The Penguins, riding a nine-game winning streak, are four points behind New York in the race for the top-seed in the Eastern Conference.

What already was a marquee game for the NHL just got even bigger. Much bigger.

"I think it's unrealistic that he's going to step into Madison Square Garden and be the only show on the ice," Bylsma said. "But I know how the guy plays. I know how fast he is going to go. I know what's going to happen when he has the puck with speed. You know how he's going to be able to play down low with the puck, and you expect to see that player step on the ice. That's a really good hockey player. That's the best hockey player in the world."

Penguins centre Evgeni Malkin arguably has been that player with Crosby out, piling up a league-high 84 points. Now, Crosby is coming back at a key point in the season, with 14 games remaining for Pittsburgh and the playoff race still undecided.

"I know Geno is excited to be on the same ice with Sid again," Bylsma said of Malkin. "I still think it's a great challenge for our team. We're not a shoo-in to be a really good team when they all come back."



If he remains healthy, Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby could help the Penguins surge into the Eastern Conference's top playoff seed. ALAN DIAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Crosby admittedly feels better than he did when he returned nearly four months ago after missing the final 41 games of last season and the first 20 games this season. He dazzled the New York Islanders with a two-goal, four point night on Nov. 21, but he didn't have another goal in the other seven games he played before the concussion symptoms returned following a physical Dec. 5 game against Boston.

This time, general manager Ray Shero said, "He feels better than last time and knows what to expect this time."

"I probably feel a little bit better just knowing what to expect," Crosby said. "I think it's easier going through it this time. I know what to expect. That first game was pretty overwhelming. It was a lot of fun, but that being said I'll take it more in stride this time and make sure I'm getting better with every game."

After being cleared for contact last week, Crosby weighed whether to return Sunday against the Bruins, only to decide that he hadn't had enough contact to play in a game so late in the regular season.

Defenceman Kris Letang, a key to the Penguins' much-improved power play, also could play Thursday. He has missed five games with concussion-like symptoms, but was cleared to practice Tuesday.

"As a player you definitely get excited when you see guys starting to come back," defenceman Paul Martin said. "You definitely get a good feeling."

Crosby would have as many as 14 regular-season games remaining before the playoffs if he gets through the rest of the schedule without any further problems.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Line dancing

For now, Penguins coach Dan Bylsma plans to keep intact his productive top two lines of Chris Kunitz-Evgeni Malkin-James Neal and Steve Sullivan-Jordan Staal-Pascal Dupuis.

- **Still, Bylsma plans** to put Sidney Crosby and Malkin together at times and also slot Crosby and Staal together, a unit previously unseen.
- **Bylsma plans to limit Crosby to 14-15 minutes** a game, although he knows that could prove difficult.
- **"You don't pace Sidney Crosby,"** he said.

NHL. GMs debate league's decision to clear Radulov for return

Alexander Radulov with the Predators in March 2007. MARK HUMPHREY/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Alex Radulov's potential return to the NHL is causing almost as much controversy as his departure.

With NHL general managers gathered for their annual March meetings, virtually all of the buzz Tuesday in Boca Raton, Fla., surrounded the league's decision to allow the 25-year-old Russian forward to rejoin the Nashville Predators without clearing waivers.

The decision was made in conjunction with NHL Players' Association and relayed to the GMs by deputy commissioner Bill Daly. Some weren't happy.

"This group shouldn't have been surprised by this," said Daly. "I've given that advice consistently with respect to every player who has gone AWOL on his contract. But, the guys in this room are competitors."

There is still no guarantee Radulov is on his way back, although Predators GM David Poile said "in his gut" he believes the timing is right for it to happen.

Radulov famously bolted Nashville in 2008 for the KHL in his homeland despite having a year left on his entry-level contract. The NHL team is willing to welcome him back, which would allow Radulov to burn off the final season of that deal if he plays just one game.

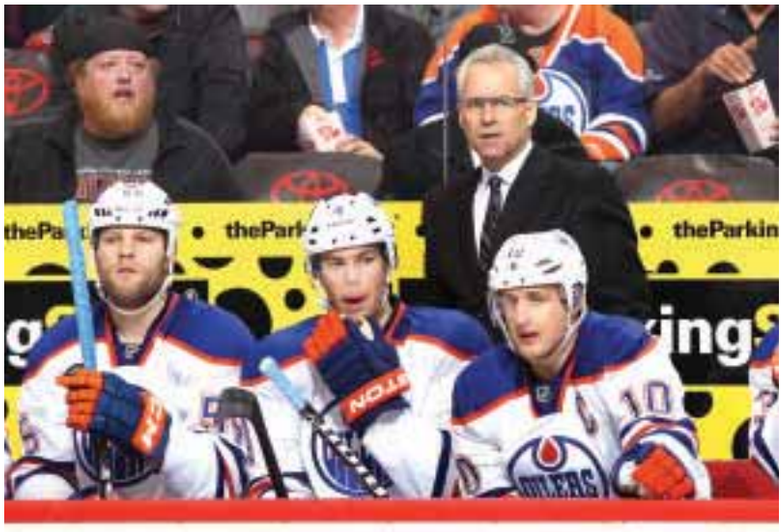
"All the things are aligned," said Poile. "The (KHL) playoffs are over, the hurdles are cleared. He can burn off the year, get himself to free agency. More important than all of that, I've always felt like he was going to come back."

Radulov could be a game-changer for the Predators. He scored 26 goals as a sophomore in the NHL and is a two-time KHL MVP and Russian Olympian, prompting some to call him the best player outside of North America. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Notes from Tuesday

The GMs decided to recommend a hybrid icing rule on Tuesday.

- **The specific language for the rule** is expected to be hammered out around June.
- **At the request of GMs, the AHL** will put in a "ringette line" next season to measure two-line passes.
- **A proposal to eliminate defensive zone** hand passes was shelved for the time being.



Oilers head coach Tom Renney says his players need to "suck it up and play hockey." CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Frustration boils over in Edmonton

NHL. Coach Renney's post-game criticism of 29th-place Oilers out of character

Reluctant to publicly criticize his team for the better part of two seasons despite mounting defeats, head coach Tom Renney raised eyebrows when he lit into the Edmonton Oilers after a 3-2 loss to the San Jose Sharks on Monday.

Renney has always been mindful to put the process of rebuilding a team that has finished 30th the past two seasons on equal footing with results during a tenure as head coach that has produced just 51 wins in 151 games. But he let the Oilers' players have it after they opened a four-game homestand by losing for the eighth time in nine games at Rexall Place.

Captain's reaction

"I think if frustration didn't happen at this point, you'd have a problem."

Oilers captain Shawn Horcoff

While Renney's players had their say in a meeting before practice Tuesday, the response that matters will come Wednesday against the Columbus Blue Jackets.

"My frustration is that we don't play to our potential," Renney said when asked about Monday's comments.

"We went out last night and played not to lose. Go play. Go play, you know? Appreciate the experience and the opportunity, those type of things. Play on your toes and not your heels. We can be a real good hockey club when we apply ourselves that way."

Renney didn't mince words Monday night after the Oilers (26-36-7) lost their fifth straight home game.

"It doesn't take many for the wrong approach, the wrong attitude ... to kind of make its way through your dressing room," Renney said. "It doesn't take many guys at all.

"We have a few people who have to look in the mirror here because this is unacceptable. You're the Edmonton Oilers, you're a millionaire, you have an opportunity to play the game.... Suck it up and play hockey."

Renney didn't single anyone out for criticism after the loss, but his frustration was obvious.

"Frustration creeps into a lot of people's games," Ryan Smyth said. "It's a matter of overcoming it, not as an individual, but as a team."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays

'Canada Day' at spring training

The Toronto Blue Jays scored five runs in the eighth inning en route to a 10-2 victory over the Canadian junior national team in a special game being held at Al Lang Field in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The Jays fielded Brett Lawrie of Langley, B.C., who once played for the junior squad. Toronto also played Vancouver-born pitchers Trystan Magnuson and Scott Richmond, as well as Michael Crouse of Port Moody, B.C., Toronto's Marcus Knecht and Dalton Pompey of Oakville, Ont.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA. Raptors continue to have Cavaliers number

Jerryd Bayless scored 20 points, Andrea Bargnani added 17 and Toronto slowed Cleveland's playoff push with a 96-88 victory Tuesday night, the Raptors' third over the Cavaliers this season.

Bayless started in place of injured point guard Jose Calderon and added seven assists while leading the Raptors to just their 14th win.

The Cavs had their winning streak stopped at three. Cleveland blew a chance to move into a virtual tie with New York and Milwaukee for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Antawn Jamison, who has been mentioned in trade rumours, led the Cavs with 20 points.

The Cavs' Tristan Thompson, left, battles Toronto's Aaron Gray Tuesday. AMY SANCETTA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Tossing a Dart into the fray

Review. Chrysler re-enters the compact sedan battlefield

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

You can thank Giulietta for the soon-to-arrive 2013 Dodge Dart.

No, Giulietta isn't an automotive design studio, corporate executive or even a flavour of ice cream. It's an Alfa Romeo automobile that's the basis for a brand-new four-door compact sedan that wears the reconstituted Dodge Dart badge.

The fact that both Chrysler/Dodge and Alfa Romeo are controlled by the vast Italy-based Fiat automotive group has everything to do with the new Dart's creation. Although the Dart and Giulietta share the same basic platform, the Dodge version is enlarged, gets its own sheetmetal (Giulietta is hatchback, after all) and interior.

The engine selection is straight from Fiat. The Dart is also being built at a Chrysler assembly plant in Illinois with mid-2012 slated for the official coming-out party.

Despite its Italian origins, the Dart looks like a full-fledged member of the Dodge family as the signature crosshair grille is framed by a mouth-agape grille.

The Dart's bold statement will be important since Chrysler hasn't had a compact sedan in play since the Neon back in 2005. Meanwhile, virtually every mainstream automaker has continued to offer trunk-lidded compacts, earning plenty of currency — both in dollars and brand awareness — in the process.

That might explain why the Dart moniker has been returned from the 1960s and '70s, when it was applied to a series of two- and four-door compact models.

The Dart name will probably resonate with older customers — who will either love or hate the idea of bringing it back — although many younger car buyers will likely miss the connection completely.

The black grille surround is exclusive to the R/T model. This is the elegant Limited trim with the optional 1.4-litre turbocharged engine out of the Fiat 500 Abarth.

The otherwise clean interior might be a bit overdone with the glowing dash piping. The gauge layout is innovative, though.

By comparison

1 Chevrolet Cruze
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2 Hyundai Elantra
Base price: $17,500

3 Toyota Corolla
Base price: $17,000

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

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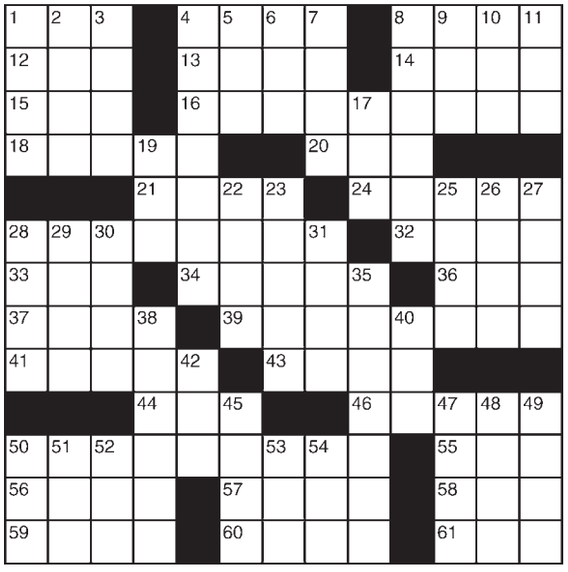

Across

1 Omega preceder
4 Evergreen variety
8 Gulf War missile
12 Disencumber
13 Sauce thickener
14 Heap
15 Individual
16 Form into a whole
18 Song of David
20 Demure
21 Dines on
24 Coffee option
28 Vex
32 Toss the dice
33 Ultramodernist
34 Banish
36 Dove's call
37 Hammer's target
39 Flood
41 Pie-in-the-face sound
43 Pleased
44 Flop
46 Wherewithal
50 Settle in a new country
55 "A pox upon thee!"
56 Pugilist's garment
57 MPs' quarry
58 Expert
59 Greek vowels
60 Clothing store department
61 Scarlet

Down

1 Item on stage
2 Transgressions
3 Concept
4 Ape, e.g.
5 Charged bit
6 Cashew or almond
7 Corp. higher-up
8 More agile
9 U.S. spy grp.
10 Last (Abbr.)
11 Sandra or Ruby
17 Deity
19 Floral neckwear
22 Cab
23 Con game
25 Imogene of old TV
26 Oodles
27 Ice sheet
28 Hostels
29 Harvest
30 Stir up
31 Hebrew month
35 Paint store choices
38 Half the audience?
40 JFK predecessor
42 Yank
45 Pharmacist's weight
47 Off in the distance
48 Pleasant
49 Start a garden
50 Rage
51 Witticism
52 Biz deg.
53 Shock and —
54 Won — soup

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Yesterday's answer

R	E	A	M		P	L	E	D		S	E	T		
U	R	S	A		H	O	V	E		P	I	E		
E	A	S	Y	R	I	D	E	R		I	R	E		
			H	O	L	E		A	I	D	E	D		
A	C	H	E	D			O	N	C	E				
F	O	A	M		B	A	D	G	E	R	E	D		
A	P	R		P	E	K	O	E		M	A	Y		
R	E	D	C	E	D	A	R		B	A	R	N		
		C	A	T	S			P	E	N	N	E		
W	H	I	R	R		E	V	A	N					
H	I	D		E	I	D	E	R	D	O	W	N		
I	K	E		L	O	G	S		E	R	I	E		
P	E	R		S	U	E	T		R	E	N	T		

Sudoku

			3			8		
8	9						3	
		7			5		2	
	2	6	8	7			4	
1								8
	8			9	1	3	5	
	1		2			4		
	5						6	1
		8			4			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

6	9	5	7	2	4	1	8	3
8	4	7	1	9	3	6	2	5
1	2	3	5	6	8	4	9	7
4	7	2	3	8	5	9	6	1
9	1	6	2	4	7	3	5	8
5	3	8	6	1	9	7	4	2
7	5	4	9	3	2	8	1	6
3	6	9	8	5	1	2	7	4
2	8	1	4	7	6	5	3	9

Send a kiss

- **Honey Bee.** We both have wings but yet the wind blows Different ways for us. Miss you so much but your sting hurts to much...Can't wait no more for the rose.. XOOX bye bye Honey Bee,your Angel always
- **Ross.** You know you're the best thing that's happened to me in this city. I would never wanna let you go, and I'll happily wait for the time when you express your love for me. P.S. You're an awesome cook. xoxoxo From Jellybean
- **My Husband.** I see you on here & you will get caught this time. I will not come bac.k why do you play with my heart take me for granted? forever forever what a joke you are. your wife
- **My Ladies.** I know u find me resistable but i just wanted u to know that i am still counting on the day u make me lemon loaf. Please yodel for me my lady From Lavergne
- **Confuse Anything.** my mind & body hasn't fully restored itself from last 2 weeks. I'm recovering...Pls be. From mm

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Try not to get emotional today — and under no circumstances get emotional about money or material things.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. The planets indicate that if you focus your mind on positive things, negative will cease to exist.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You may suffer some kind of setback today but the thing to remember is that in the greater scheme of things, it is minor.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Wishful thinking seems to be a bit of a problem for you at the moment. Stop living in your head.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Don't rush into a new situation today. Take your time and get a feel for what it's about then make your play based on your instincts.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. If you have your doubts about something then you must speak up, even if you risk annoying people higher up the pecking order.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Do something irrational and outrageous, something that gets tongues wagging.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. If a relationship has not been going well of late, now is the time to kiss and make up. Make it a sizzler.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Someone wants to repay you for a favour or several favours you did for them a while back.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Creatively and romantically, this is quite possibly one of the very best days of the year so far.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. You won't be interested in work, but certain tasks still need to be finished. Do whatever it takes to get others to do things for you.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You know a good thing when you see one and what you are looking at now is as good as it gets.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"You look puuurrrfect to me"
Sheila

NG HAN GUAN/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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